

**All Except Plantation Sector Exempted From Manpower Contractor Provision
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 6 (Bernama) -- Human Resources minister Datuk Seri Dr S.Subramaniam announced after a meeting with the National Labour Advisory Council Tuesday that the Employment Act provisions on manpower contractors was only applicable to the plantation sector, with all other sectors exempted.

"The matter will be implemented through the Exemption Order under Section 2B of the Employment Act 1955. This was a proposal by the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) itself," he said in a statement.

He said the decision aimed to resolve MTUC's protests over the Employment (Amendment) Bill 2011, which was passed by Parliament in December last year.

The new provisions in the Bill replaced the definition of "manpower sub-contractor" with "manpower contractor" by including the word "principal" to widen the scope of its application and protect the workers.

According to the statement, MTUC protested the amendment even though it was initially proposed by the National Union of Plantation Workers to enhance transparency, for easier enforcement and to ensure the rights of the workers.

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